



Background Information on the Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63)

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was passed in November 2004 as Proposition 63 on the ballot. The MHSA will expand mental health care for children, youth, adults, and seniors using programs proven to be effective. Proposition 63 also provides prevention services to help children, youth, adults and seniors get care before a mental illness becomes disabling.

The MHSA:

- Provides comprehensive mental health care for children, adults and seniors.
- Helps individuals and families without insurance, or whose insurance doesn't pay for needed services.
- Includes mental health treatment, general medical care, housing, job training, and prescription drugs.
- Supports innovative programs that are proven to work.

It is estimated that the MHSA will provide \$2.1 billion for mental health funding over the next three years. Under the provisions of the MHSA:

- Funding is derived from a 1% tax on taxable personal income over \$1 million.
- Funding goes only to new or expanded programs that are based on models proven to be effective.
- State and local governments can't redirect the funding.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) began working on implementation immediately upon passage of the MHSA. Broad public input has been obtained in the development of processes and requirements. More than 2,000 people have attended stakeholder meetings, 900 participated on calls to provide updates on progress and draft proposals, and more than 1,300 e-mails have been submitted to DMH to request information or provide advice.

Consistent with the Act, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) will provide leadership as county mental health departments use this new revenue stream to renovate California's mental health system. However, the MHSA strict accountability requirements also include provisions for the creation of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) – a panel of independent, unpaid members that will be responsible for review and approval of local plans. The first meeting of the MHSOAC was held on July 7, 2005 in Sacramento; future meetings will be held at least quarterly.